

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 AID-20 T-03 OMB-01 SR-02 ORM-03 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-09 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03

RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12 IO-12 DPW-01 RSR-01 /122 W
----- 031012

R 110250 Z MAR 73

FM AMCONSUL CAN THO
TO AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH
INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON
SECSTATE WASHDC 0001

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAN THO 0028

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, MOPS, VS, CP

SUBJECT: DEVELOPMENTS IN EASTERN CAMBODIA

1. SUMMARY: ACCORDING TO VIETNAMESE MILITARY SOURCES IN CHAU DOC PROVINCE, THE BUILDUP OF NVA AND KHMER INSURGENT (KI) FORCES IN TAKEO PROVINCE ABOUT THREE WEEKS AGO HAS RESULTED IN THE SEIZURE OF ALL BUT FOUR OUTPOSTS IN THE BORDER AREA SOUTH OF HIGHWAY 2 AND HIGHWAY 205. AS A RESULT OF THIS ACTIVITY, SOME 5000 CAMBODIAN REFUGEES HAVE CROSSED THE BORDER AND ARE NOW SETTLED IN CHAU DOC PROVINCE.
 2. RVNAF INTELLIGENCE REPORTS FROM CHAU DOC, CONFIRMED BY REFUGEES, INDICATE THAT A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE OF COMMUNIST FORCES IN THE SOUTHERN PORTION OF TAKEO PROVINCE AND IN PARTICULAR ON THE SOUTHERN SLOPES OF O MOUNTAIN (VS8396) OCCURRED ABOUT A MONTH AGO. ACCORDING TO THESE REPORTS, NVA AND KI HAVE BEEN USING THESE SITES AS FINAL STAGING AREAS FOR POSSIBLE ATTACKS ON TINH BIEN DISTRICT IN CHAU DOC (NVA) AND ON FANK POSITIONS ON THE NORTH AND EAST SIDES OF O MOUNTAIN IN KIRIVUNG DISTRICT (KI AND NVA).
 3. REPORTS FOR THE END OF FEBRUARY INDICATE THAT ALL FRIENDLY POSITIONS NEAR O MOUNTAIN HAD FALLEN TO THE KI. REFUGEES ARRIVING AT THAT TIME TOLD STORIES OF HEAVY MORTAR BARRAGES, SOMETIMES LASTING THREE OR FOUR DAYS, FOLLOWED BY GROUND ATTACKS AGAINST REMAINING FANK
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PAGE 02 CAN TH 00TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS RE STATION. MAKINS INDICATED FIRMLY THAT SUCH ACTION WAS NOT APPRECIATED.

3. ON MARCH 9, AFTER COORDINATING USG POSITION, DEPOFFS

INFORMED MAKINS:

A. IN GENERAL, USG CONCURS IN PROPOSED BRITISH APPROACH TO CONTINUE RECEIPT OF PESHAWAR DATA.

B. ASSUMING UK PROVIDES MAINTENANCE, USG AGREES TO CONTINUE SUPPLYING CONSUMABLES AND SPARE PARTS AS IN PAST.

C. US WOULD PREFER ANY INDICATION THAT DATA FROM SITE SHARED WITH US BE PLACED IN FUTURE CONTEXT RATHER THAN OFFICIAL REVELATION OF PAST PRACTICE. (MAKINS NOTED THAT PAKISTANIS ALREADY AWARE UNOFFICIALLY THAT US BENEFITS FROM PESHAWAR DATA.)

D. RE OFFERING GOP NEW EQUIPMENT TO UPDATE STATION, US WOULD PREFER TO RESERVE ANY OFFER UNTIL PAKISTANI GOOD FAITH UNDER NEW ARRANGEMENT HAS BEEN DEMONSTRATED. (IN ANY CASE, NO NEW EQUIPMENT IS LIKELY TO BE AVAILABLE UNTIL 1975.)

E. DEPT HAD NOT INSTRUCTED ANYONE TO PROBE SITUATION IN PESHAWAR AND, IF INDEED SUCH PROBING HAD OCCURRED, IT WAS UNDERTAKEN EITHER AT LOCAL INITIATIVE OR ON BASIS UNCOORDINATED INSTRUCTIONS.

4. UNDERSTAND BRITISH AMBASSADOR WILL ATTEMPT TO SEE BHUTTO ON THIS MATTER SOONEST (POSSIBLY AS EARLY AS MARCH 12).

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5. POSTS SHOULD NOT RPT NOT RAISE THIS SENSITIVE SUBJECT WITH PAKISTANIS. BRITISH AMBASSADOR ISLAMABAD MAY DECIDE CONSULT CHARGE ON TACTICS AND REPORT OUTCOME HIS APPROACH. IF HE TAKES INITIATIVE YOU MAY OF COURSE DISCUSS ENTIRE SUBJECT FREELY. ANY DISCUSSIONS THIS ISSUE SHOULD BE REPORTED IN DETAIL TO DEPARTMENT. ROGERS

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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